

## CLAIMS

1. A method for processing user programming request, comprising the steps of:  
detecting a user request;  
providing an entry for a time period based user spending limit, in respond to the  
5 user request;  
receiving the entry; and  
tracking user spending during the time period.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a selection for a rolling  
10 time period.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of generating a user warning when  
the user spending exceeds the time period based user spending limit entered.
- 15 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of allowing the user to override the  
user spending limit.
5. A method for processing user programming request, comprising the steps of:  
detecting a user request;  
20 providing a plurality of spending limit entries each corresponding to a time period,  
in respond to the user request;  
receiving one or more of the selected spending limit entries; and  
tracking user spending during each of the selected time period.
- 25 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising performing a check to see if a spending limit  
for a shorter time period is greater than a spending limit entry for a longer time period; and  
providing a user warning if otherwise.
7. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of tracking all applicable user  
30 spending during the selected time periods.
8. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of providing the option of counting  
the selected time period on a rolling basis.

9. A system for processing user programming request, comprising the steps of:

a user controller for entering a user request; and

means for providing an entry for a time period based user spending limit, in

5 respond to the user request; said means receiving the entry and providing user spending tracking during the time period.

10. A system for processing user programming request, comprising the steps of:

a user controller for detecting a user request; and

10 means for providing a plurality of spending limit entries each corresponding to a time period, in respond to the user request; said means receiving one or more of the selected spending limit entries and tracking user spending during each of the selected time period.